

## **Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 106**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 38**

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 106—Relative to the CAL-FIRE Firefighter Matt Will Memorial Highway.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 17, 2010.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

ACR 106, Caballero. CAL-FIRE Firefighter Matt Will Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a 5-mile portion of State Highway Route 156 from State Highway Route 25 to State Highway Route 101 as the CAL-FIRE Firefighter Matt Will Memorial Highway. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

WHEREAS, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL-FIRE) Heavy Fire Equipment Operator (HFEO) Fire Captain Matt Will passed away in the line of duty on October 9, 2007, at the age of 30, while battling a fire in Monterey County; and

WHEREAS, Matt Will is survived by his mother, father, two brothers, loving wife and high school sweetheart Dianna, son Trysten (12), and daughter Elsie (10); and

WHEREAS, Matt Will was born in El Cajon, California on March 13, 1977, and was raised in Campo, California. He attended elementary school through high school in Campo where he participated in many sports including football, baseball, and wrestling. He enjoyed many outdoor activities, such as camping, fishing, hunting, and off-roading. After graduating from high school, Matt Will helped run his family business where he became proficient at operating heavy equipment; and

WHEREAS, HFEO Gary Will, father of Matt Will, is employed by CAL-FIRE. Matt Will followed in his father's footsteps as he pursued the career of his dreams as a HFEO by applying his passions for heavy equipment and firefighting. He was always charismatic and caring, and his drive and motivation were displayed daily. Matt Will's leadership skills carried him to reach his goals and to encourage others to reach theirs; and

WHEREAS, Matt Will was extremely knowledgeable, with abundant experience and excellent judgment that enabled him to be on the fireline operating alone. On October 8, 2007, HFEO Matt Will tried to get another bulldozer out of a precarious situation, placing him in a very dangerous location. The ground of the steep terrain gave way, causing Matt Will's bulldozer to roll 154 feet down a steep drainage, in which Matt Will

sustained injuries. On October 9, Matt Will succumbed to those injuries; and

WHEREAS, Matt Will exemplified the professionalism, work ethic, dedication, and self-sacrifice for which CAL-FIRE firefighters are known. He touched the lives of many and is sorely missed by all who knew him. He will never be forgotten; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the contributions of CAL-FIRE Firefighter Matt Will to the people of California and designates a five-mile portion of State Highway Route 156 from State Highway Route 25 to State Highway Route 101 as the “CAL-FIRE Firefighter Matt Will Memorial Highway”; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the author for appropriate distribution.